

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 NAIROB 02247 201340Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
-----201343 118482 /53

O 201215Z FEB 77 ZFF4
FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6236
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T NAIROBI 2247

EXDIS

NOFORM

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, KE, TZ
SUBJ: NYERERE REQUEST FOR U.S. SUPPORT TO PRESERVE EAC

REF: DAR ES SALAAM 0779

1. AS EMBASSY DAR RIGHTLY POINTS OUT, ONE OF KEY FACTORS IN DECIDING HOW TO RESPOND TO NYERERE REQUEST FOR U.S. INTERVENTION TO PRESERVE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY (REFTEL) IS WHETHER CURRENT STATE OF AFFAIRS HAS EVOLVED WITHOUT ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF KENYATTA. AS IT APPEARS TO US IN NAIROBI, TANZANIANS ARE MISLEADING THEMSELVES ON THIS SCORE--THERE IS LITTLE THAT ESCAPES THE NOTICE OF THE PRESIDENT IN SPHERE OF NATIONAL SECURITY AND RELATIONS WITH NEIGHBORS. FOR EXAMPLE, WHEN I CALLED ON PERMANENT SECRETARY IN OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT KARIITHI ON FEB. 15, I ASKED HIM ABOUT CONTENTS OF NYERERE LETTER TO KENYATTA. HE TOLD ME HE HAD NOT SEEN LETTER; IT WAS DELIVERED SEALED TO THE PRESIDENT.

2. THUS IT DOES NOT APPEAR THAT TANZANIA'S PROBLEMS WITH KENYA OVER THE EAC ARE A FUNCTION OF KENYATTA'S ISOLATION OR NEGLECT.

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EVEN IF THIS WERE THE CASE, I QUESTION WHETHER IT WOULD BE WISE FOR U.S. TO PUT IN ITS OAR TO SAVE AN ORGANIZATION THAT HAS LONG SINCE PASSED POINT OF NO RETURN. GRANTED, THERE ARE CERTAIN REGIONAL ACTIVITIES SUCH AS RESEARCH WHICH SHOULD BE PRESERVED, BUT THESE COULD SURVIVE THROUGH BILATERAL AGREEMENT EVEN IF EAC IS DISSILVED. AS FOR CUSTOMS UNION, I CANNOT CONCEIVE OF KENYA LOOKING SYMPATHETICALLY ON A DEMARCHE FROM

US OR ANYONE ELSE ON THIS SUBJECT AT A TIME WHEN HUNDERDS OF KENYA-REGISTERED VEHICLES ARE BEING HELD HOSTAGE IN TANZANIA.

3. PARENTHETICALLY, I NOTE THAT NYERERE IS NOT ALONE IN PRO-POSING A MEETING WITH KENYATTA ON EAC. AMIN HAS PUBLICLY URGED THAT ALL THREE EAC HEADS OF STATE CONVENE. WHILE THERE MAY BE MERIT IN MEETING, IF ONLY TO EASE THE DEATH PANGS OF EAC, I BELIEVE KENYANS CAN AND SHOULD MAKE THEIR OWN JUDGMENT ON WHETHER TO PROCEED ALONG THIS PATH.

4. THEREFORE, UNLESS DEPARTMENT INSTRUCTS OTHERWISE, I DO NOT PLAN TO CONTACT EITHER THE BRITISH OR PRESIDENT KENYATTA OR HIS TOP ADVISERS ON THE FATE OF THE EAC.
MARSHALL

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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